

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael NORDLUND et al. Group Art Unit: 3653
Serial No.: 10/821,599 Examiner: Thomas A. Morrison
Filed: April 08, 2004
Title: DUAL-SPEED DRIVE MECHANISM

RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Sir:

This is in response to the Restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 dated October 10, 2006. The Examiner stated that the application contains the following patentably distinct species:

- I. FIG. 1.
- II. FIG. 2.

Applicant hereby provisionally elects, *with traverse*, FIG. 1, which is covered by Claims 1-5, 10-13. Claim 1 is a generic claim that covers both FIG. 1 and FIG. 2.

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF RESTRICTION

The Examiner asserted that the species I and II are independent and distinct "because these two embodiments have substantially different structures that are patentably distinct." However, specific structures that are allegedly "patentably distinct" have not been identified.

It is respectfully submitted that FIGS. 1 and 2 do not represent patentably distinct species. To the contrary, these two figures are related because FIG. 1 is generic to FIG. 2. FIG. 2 encompasses an embodiment that is a more detailed version of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1. For example, the drive transmission 105 in FIG. 1 encompasses the low-reduction gear train 213 and the harmonic drive 215 in FIG. 2.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the restriction is in error and Applicants respectfully request that the restriction be withdrawn.

Date: October 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thi Dang', written in a cursive style.

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